



## Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission Gets Started

### EPA Contacts

#### Coeur d'Alene Basin Team Leader

Sheila Eckman, 206-553-0455

Email: [eckman.sheila@epa.gov](mailto:eckman.sheila@epa.gov)

#### Community Outreach

Dick Martindale, 208-664-4588

Marianne Deppman, 206-553-1237

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### EPA Website

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/CLEANUP.NSF/sites/cda>

Contact Marianne Deppman at 206-553-1237 with any comments or suggestions.

### NewsBriefs Submissions

Contact Pamela Moore at 206-438-2236 with any comments, suggestions or submissions.

### NewsBriefs Available Through Email

News Briefs issues can be sent as a pdf or Microsoft Word file to your email address. Please send requests to [pamela\\_moore@urscorp.com](mailto:pamela_moore@urscorp.com)

### NewsBriefs Mailing List Corrections

Please direct your update to:

Pamela Moore, 206-438-2236

Email: [pamela\\_moore@urscorp.com](mailto:pamela_moore@urscorp.com)

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## Documents / Information Recently Added To The Information Repositories

Public comments on the Proposed Plan are accessible on CD-ROM at all repositories:

- North Idaho College Library
- Wallace Public Library
- Harrison City Hall
- Spokane Public Library Downtown Branch

### Commission to Implement Basin Workplan

On Friday April 12, Idaho Governor Dirk Kempthorne announced the formation of the new Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission to implement remediation of metals contamination in the Coeur d'Alene Basin. Created by state law enacted last year the Commission will be responsible for adopting and implementing a Basin workplan to carry out the EPA Record of Decision (ROD) due this summer. The workplan may include other actions deemed necessary by the Commission. The Commission will adopt a short-term plan until a ROD is issued by EPA and concurred on by the State of Idaho.

Initial representatives to the Commission include Steve Allred, Director of the Idaho DEQ, Chuck Matheson Vice Chairman of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Sherry Krulitz, Shoshone County Commissioner, Dick Panabaker, Kootenai County Commissioner, and Jack Buell, Benewah County Commissioner.

Representatives of the Federal Government and the State of Washington have not yet been appointed, but these agencies have expressed their willingness to participate.

The Commission's work will be open to the public; see Upcoming Events in this issue of NewsBriefs for details on the kickoff meeting. Advisory groups are expected to be created and appointed by the Commission to provide technical and local input on implementation activities.\*

\*This information was submitted by the State of Idaho.

## Other Agency / Entity Contacts and Highlights

### **Bureau of Land Management**

Contact: David Fortier, 208-769-5022

### **Coeur d'Alene Tribe**

Contact: Phillip Cernera, 208-667-4119

The Coeur d'Alene Tribe and the State of Idaho continue to review the Lake Management Plan. Activities conducted over the last month include a) convened a meeting among scientists and policy personnel to review the most up to date science to determine the status of the Lake in 2002, b) developed an outline for the revision of chapter one of the plan, and c) contacted numerous resource managers to set up a meeting to review both the forestry and agricultural tables outlined in the current plan. This meeting date has not been finalized but should occur during the first few weeks of May.

### **Panhandle Health District**

Contact: Jerry Cobb, 208-783-0707

### **Private Land Owners / Managers**

Contact: Frank Frutche, 208-682-2077

### **Spokane Tribe**

Contact: Randy Connolly, 509-258-7709

Contact: Fred Kirschner, 509-924-0184

### **State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality**

Contact: Rob Hanson, 208-373-0290

Contact: Geoff Harvey, 208-769-1422

Contact: Luke Russell, 208-783-5781

Contact: Nick Zilka, 208-783-5781

### **Basin Pilot Yard Remediation Program In Development**

As design of a human health remedy in the basin continues, the State of Idaho is developing a pilot program that would 1) review potential residential lead exposure both interior and exterior, 2) develop remedial plans tailored to specific residential conditions, 3) invite increased involvement of local homeowners, and 4) create local business opportunities. The first step will be to conduct sampling of residential properties and rights-of-way to better assess the need and locations for residential remedial actions. Sampling is targeted to begin in May and the state is preparing a Request for Proposal for contractors to participate in the remediation program with construction activity planned for this summer.

### **State of Washington Department of Ecology**

Contact: John Roland, 509-625-5182

### **United States Fish and Wildlife Service**

Contact: Dan Audet, 509-893-8001

On April 3, 2002, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service observed the following during a "windshield survey" of portions of the lower Coeur d'Alene Basin:

- 496 tundra swans feeding in 8 wetlands
- 15 dead tundra swans in 6 wetlands
- 1 sick Canada goose
- 1 dead northern pintail

These observations do not represent a comprehensive survey of the basin. However, they are indicative of past findings that lead poisoning unrelated to lead shot continues to impact waterfowl populations in the Coeur d'Alene Basin.

Observations of dead and sick waterfowl in the Coeur d'Alene River Basin continued during the weeks of April 7 and 14, with as many as 12 dead tundra swans observed at Thompson Lake on April 16. Numerous other dead and sick waterfowl were observed throughout the basin during April by U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and Coeur d'Alene Tribe staff.

### **United States Forest Service**

Contact: Jeff Johnson, 208-765-7442

### **United States Geological Survey**

Contact: Paul Woods, 208-387-1353

The U.S. Geological Survey initiated water quality and sediment sampling at 8 key stations on the Coeur d'Alene River in response to a major rain-on-snow event which began Sunday, April 14. By Monday, the Coeur d'Alene River at Cataldo was flowing at 37,400 cubic feet per second. Flows of this magnitude are only expected once every 25 years. By early Monday morning, river stage at Cataldo had reached 46.5 feet, which is 3.5 feet above the National Weather Services' flood stage.

## Upcoming Events

### **Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission**

**May 3, 2002** – 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District Office – Yellowstone Street, Silverton

Agenda: Kick-off meeting; commission organization.

Contact: Luke Russell, 208-783-5781

### **Coeur d'Alene Basin Citizen Advisory Committee (CBCAC)**

**May 1, 2002** – 7 p.m.

Rose Lake Historical Society Building – Rose Lake

Agenda: Post Falls Dam FERC Re-Licensing by Bruce Howard, Avista; Lake Management Plan Summary Report – CAC Conclusions; additional discussion of the CAC's future role.

Please see CBCAC's website at [www.cdabcac.org](http://www.cdabcac.org) for meeting agendas, past meeting minutes, posted reports, readings and other valuable information.

Contact: Geoff Harvey, 208-769-1422

### **Coeur d'Alene Basin Interagency Group (CBIG)**

**May 15, 2002** (tentative) – Time and Place TBA

Contact: Jack Gunderman, 208-667-4119

### **Shoshone Natural Resources Coalition (SNRC)**

**May 14, 2002** – 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**May 28, 2002** – 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Brooks Hotel - 500 Cedar Street, Wallace, ID

(Group meets second and fourth Tuesday of each month.)

Contact: Connie Fudge, 208-753-6022

### **Silver Valley People's Action Coalition**

PO Box 362, Kellogg, ID 83837

Meeting dates and times TBA

Contact: Babara Miller, 208-784-8891

### **Washington Citizens Advisory Committee (WCAC)**

**June 19, 2002** – Time TBA

Corbin Senior Activity Center – 827 West Cleveland Ave., Spokane

Agenda: TBA

Contact: Jim Wilson, 509-252-2290



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